

Okinawa MARINE



The Marines of Weapons Company's Combined Anti-Armor Team Platoon are a self-proclaimed elite group of seven Marines and one Sailor currently deployed to Okinawa with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division from Twentynine Palms, Calif. See page 13 for story and photos.

August 3, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

INSIDE

NEWS

H&S Bn. CO encourages proper beach behavior

In an effort to beat summer's hot and humid conditions, service members are hitting the beaches and the Camp Commander of Camps Lester and Foster wants to ensure they are following local regulations.

see page 3 for more

NEWS

Advisory committee comes to Okinawa on Pacific tour

Service members voice their opinions about military life to DACOWITS, the committee that advises the secretary of defense on issues facing women serving in the military.

see page 5 for more

FEATURE

Marines and Sailors learn the ropes at Camp Hansen

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group offers noncommissioned officers the chance to experience the challenge of the Helicopter Rope Suspension Training Course.

see page 12 for more

COMMUNITY

Sailors deployed to Yap provide optometry care

In support of the Federated States of Micronesia Games, 40 Marines and Sailors from the III MEF offer their expertise to help residents of this tiny Micronesian island see their world just a bit better.

see page 14 for more




SPORTS

Camp Kinser team takes top spot in tournament

At the two-day Camp Kinser Open Flag Football Tournament, Camp Kinser's own Stunna's use teamwork to beat eight other teams and win the double-elimination tournament.

see page 17 for more

FORECAST

	Today
high 90 low 83	
	Saturday
high 90 low 83	
	Sunday
high 89 low 81	

INDEX

News	3
News	5
News	7
Briefs/Opinion	8-9
Feature	10-11
Feature	12
Feature	13
Community	14
Sports	16
Leisure	17
Marketplace	18

Ceremonies bring new leadership

3rd Marine Division's new commanding general, Maj. Gen. James R. Battaglini, addressed Marines, Sailors and other guests during a change of command ceremony at Camp Courtney July 26. This is the third tour on Okinawa for Battaglini, who was commissioned in 1971. He previously served on Okinawa as a company commander in 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment in 1974 and assistant operations officer for Marine Air Control Group-18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in 1986-87. Battaglini last served as the deputy commanding general for I Marine Expeditionary Force and replaced Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, who is now the III MEF commanding general. See pages 10-11 for story and photos on the III MEF change of command ceremony.



STAFF SGT. JOHN A. GILES

Hansen CO backs 2001 Summer Safety Campaign

CPL. SCOTT CARLSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN – The base commanding officer and the mayor of Kin Town stood at the main gate July 17 passing out flyers to service members as they traveled home asking them to be safe on liberty and not drink and drive.

This was the beginning efforts of the 2001 Summer Safety Campaign, a joint effort between the personnel of Camp Hansen and the Ishikawa Police Department to curb wreckless and drunken driving.

"It's my honor to participate in the 2001 Summer Safety Campaign," Col. Michael C. O'Neal, base commanding officer, told an assembled crowd outside gate-1 "Together, the Marines and Sailors of Camp Hansen and the people of Kin Town can make a significance this summer."

Civilian volunteers also handed out Japanese good-luck charms for service members to hang from their rear-view mirrors and keep them safe while on liberty.

During the small ceremony, Katsuhiro Yoshida, mayor of Kin Town, urged service members to slow down while behind the wheel and drive safely.

"I have seen active-duty drive really

fast to get to P.T. and their duties," he said. "I wish, someday, we could see safe driving among the active-duty."

The campaign is not aimed directly at service members, said Capt. Jaime Collazo, deputy camp commander, Camp Hansen. Base and city officials want to push safe driving to all traffic on Highway 329.

While O'Neal and Yoshida covered outgoing traffic at the main gate, volunteers from Kin Town and Marines stationed here covered the entire intersection outside gate-1 handing the flyers to city traffic stopped at red lights.

According to 2nd Lt. David J. Ellwood, officer-in-charge, Camp Hansen Provost Marshal's Office, Highway 329 has seen no service member fatalities, but traffic accidents are still a big problem.

"We get a good number of accidents," said Ellwood. "Most of them occur on the weekends, and a lot of them have local national involvement. On the whole, the Marines seem to pay pretty good attention to what they're doing."

Ellwood said most traffic accidents that occur in this area are minor and Marines are usually able to drive away uninjured.

"We do, on occasion, get the one or

two that come through the gate," he said. "So, that's where we pick up a lot of our DUIs."

Ellwood blamed the number of tickets given because of service members driving under the influence of alcohol on a lack of judgment on the service members' part.

"They're thinking that they can get away with it," said Ellwood. "Or they're thinking 'Oh, I only had one or two,' but their judgment is impaired by alcohol."

One solution to alcohol related incidents among service members is proper planning, said Ellwood. Service members must pre-plan by determining who will be the designated driver and even make a back-up plan just in case the designated driver fails to stay sober. Public transportation and walking can also help avoid a bad situation.

Proper vehicle maintenance and maintaining a good following distance is another way to avoid minor traffic accidents, added Ellwood.

"Traffic safety is tender loving care," stated the bright yellow sashes donned by O'Neal and those at the ceremony.

"To be good neighbors, everybody must drive in a good manner," concluded Yoshida.

Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442

Proper behavior necessary at beaches says H&S Bn. CO

LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — In an effort to promote the good neighbor policy, the U. S. Military advises service members to follow local laws and customs when visiting local beaches.

Service members stationed here have the benefit of visiting and enjoying off-base beaches as they wish, but service members must follow the rules and regulations so beach privileges do not get revoked.



Pisano

"We have to remember we live in a foreign country and that means we are guests here," said Col. Paul J. Pisano, camp commander Camps Foster and Lester. "It's im-

portant for us as service members to treat Okinawa the same way we would treat our own property or country."

Military beaches such as White Beach, Oura Wan Beach, Torii Station and Okuma also have similar rules in place, but base officials want those rules to carry over when service members travel off base.

"The rules are designed to ensure order and peace is kept, so everyone can have fun and enjoy a great day at the beach," Pisano said. "We need rules for the beach just like we need rules for everything else in life. It's only common sense to have some type

of guideline to follow."

Japanese officials also designed beach rules with safety in mind. Safety is an important aspect for Japanese officials because it aids with maintaining order on the beaches.

When rules and regulations are not followed, chances of conflict, crime, or personal harm increase.

"Safety at the beaches remains a top priority to Japanese officials and community," said Ken Yakabi, liaison, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Provost Marshal's Office. "The beaches on Okinawa represent a family atmosphere and for this reason, it's important that safety be a key issue at the beach."

By breaking the rules, such as bringing glass bottles to the beach or staying past posted hours, service members run the risk of being punished by Japanese law officials. Punishment includes

warnings, fines and possibly jail. Eventual punishment could ban all service members from visiting the off-base beaches indefinitely.

Japanese officials have posted rules and regulations at the entrance to all beaches off base to tell visitors what they can and cannot do. This means there is no excuse for not understanding the guide-

"It's important for us as service members to treat Okinawa the same way we would treat our own property or country."

- Col. Paul J. Pisano

lines for visiting the beach.

"Raising awareness for service members and their families will ensure problems do not get out of hand," Yakabi said. "We are ambassadors for another country and we need to understand how the Japanese want us to treat their country."

The admittance of service members to local beaches gives the Japanese community an opportunity to associate with other cultures in a family atmosphere.

"We need to protect the relationship we have with the Japanese because they're our friends and they're offering part of their culture for us to enjoy," Yakabi said. "In a sense we need to respect that because they need us just like we need them."

Service members are professionals at what they do and obeying laws and authority is a way of life for them. Visiting the beach is a privilege not a right.

It allows service members the opportunity to represent their country and express their way of life.

"As service members, we are here to cooperate with Okinawa citizens and the rules they enforce," Pisano concluded. "If you just follow the rules, we will have no problems to deal with and we can continue having access to the beaches."

Posted rules at Tropical Beach

1. All visitors must leave beach areas before 10:00 p.m. Area security guard will close gates at 10:00 p.m. Beach hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.

2. Fires and use of charcoal are absolutely prohibited on the beach. Gas stoves are allowed.

3. Please help to keep beach area clean. Bag all trash and take it with you when leaving.

4. Use of glass bottles or breakable items are strictly prohibited in beach area.

5. Pets are prohibited in beach area.

6. Please respect all visitors using beach. Do not disturb other people.

7. Marine sports (Jet Ski, wind surfing and motorcycles) are strictly prohibited within beach and swimming area.

8. Fireworks of any type are prohibited.

9. Nails are prohibited from being hammered into boarded wooden structures.

10. Cars, vans and motorcycles can only be parked in parking lots. Do not block entrance and exits. If you violate the regulations, your vehicle may be towed away. (Very expensive)

11. Tents can be used but are prohibited from being pitched on beach, grass and outdoor stage areas.

12. Tents are permitted on wooden and boarded structure. Please follow articles (9) and (11).

13. Washing barbecue sets or dishes after beach party is strictly prohibited.

14. Roller blades or skateboards and similar sports items are prohibited.

15. Generators and lights are prohibited.

16. Visitors must obey beach guard's instruction.

Senior enlisted gather for annual E-8 seminar

SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — Marine and Navy E-8's from units within the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force attended the annual E-8 Seminar hosted by the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy at the Camp Hansen Theatre recently.

The seminar, a requirement for all Marine E-8's as primary military education, was open to the Navy senior master chiefs for the first time.

Some of the topics discussed by the Marines and Sailors from III MEF Headquarters Group, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, MCAS Iwakuni, 3rd Force Service Support Group, 3rd Marine Division and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing were moral and ethical leadership, operational risk management, fitness reports, reserve issues, family planning, veteran benefits, the martial arts program and Marine Corps Community Services.

"One of the most important aspects of the E-8 seminar was the collective efforts of the diverse group of first sergeants and master sergeants throughout III MEF," said Sgt. Maj. Michael O. White, director, SNCOA. "They openly discussed and focused on issues that concerned our Marines and Sailors."

White said the end product of the seminar was to better prepare the senior leaders in the Marine Corps for anything.

"Our goal was to better inform our enlisted leadership about local and global issues and to prepare them to anticipate and guard against potential conflicts anywhere in the world," White said. "This seminar is another tool that keeps us on the cutting edge of professionalism."

Aside from the goal of preparation, White had other things he wanted the seminar to accomplish.

"Another aspect of the seminar was the opportunity for other first sergeants, master sergeants and senior chief petty officers to meet others and share experiences," he said. "This seminar helped each one of us to expand our knowledge base and leadership capability for use in garrison or in conflict."

One participant, 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Sheffield, company first sergeant, Headquarters Co., 7th Communications Bn., said he would use the information to educate his Marines and enhance his ability to fulfill his mission as a leader of Marines.

During the seminar, the 94 participants split into focus groups to discuss and make recommendations on a host of topics, such as the liberty campaign policy and the martial arts program.



SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD

Senior enlisted Marines from III MEF recently gathered at the Camp Hansen theatre to attend annual training.

"The E-8 seminar is a tremendous tool that ensures everyone is on the same sheet of music, an avenue to disseminate information and get recommendations on policies and procedures," White said. "Our goal is to better equip our leaders for their current and future positions."

Marines teach local students English with enthusiasm

SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

HINOKO, Okinawa – Marines and Sailors volunteered their time over the past five months teaching Basic English to elementary students in Nago and Hinoko as part of an English Education Program by Native English Speaking Assistants set by the Kunigami Education Office.

As a part of the long-term relations within the community and an agenda item of the Tripartite Liaison Committee, U.S. Forces on Okinawa, Okinawa Prefectural Government and Government of Japan agreed to implement this program. It ultimately places U.S. service members and dependents in Okinawa's elementary schools to help the local students learn the American culture and English in the "General Studies Class" in their curriculum according to Mio Iha, Community Relations Specialist, Camp Services, Camp Schwab.

"These classes are utilized to teach miscellaneous subjects such as English, culture, tradition, games, songs, international interests, special projects and group assessment," he added.

Kube Elementary School Principal Noboru Arakawa added that the camp is always willing to do something for the local community, particularly Henoko and Nago.

"The Camp desires to help out the local folks, especially the children, whenever they need us in many ways,"



SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD
Cpl. Jeremiah Webber, maintenance noncommissioned officer with Materiel Readiness Bn., 3rd Force Service Support Group, teaches the different body parts in English to his 3rd grade class by playing simon says.

he said. "Teaching English at schools is just one of these good deeds towards the local community. As long as Camp Schwab is up here, the camp is committed to work for the betterment of our communities of Henoko and Nago."

Iha said this program is a good opportunity to break the ice between the Marines, local students and their teachers, because they can see the Marines as human beings. It also helps to destroy the stereotype image of Marines.

"The Marines here on Camp Schwab get to see that these people are just like anyone else. No real differences between the people," said Gunnery Sgt. Billy G. Guzman, adjutant, Camp Services, Camp Schwab. "All we really want is what's right for our families, and we want to bring up

our children in good surroundings like they do. I believe through this, the rest of the community knows what's going on in their school and we have their support."

One of the Marines, Cpl. Jeremiah Webber, who volunteered in the schools on a regular basis, had a much more productive time than he first anticipated.

"The kids were extremely cooperative," said Webber, a maintenance noncommissioned officer with Materiel Readiness Bn., 3rd Force Service Support Group. "It was difficult to communicate at first, but as my relationship with the translator grew, the class started to click. I had absolutely no problems."

"As a matter of fact, some children were afraid of the Marines at first," Iha said. "However, spending time together

on a regular basis, that fear disappeared. It's because the innocent children can find only good buddies and pals in U.S. service members."

The Marines built the friendships with the students by bringing them a lot of things such as fun, enjoyment, happiness, inspiration, culture, laughter, motivation and fond memories. This program will go a long way in helping these future leaders of Okinawa not only understand the American culture but also improve good relations between the local and military communities according to Iha.

"The students grew as I was teaching them," said Webber. "They were a little shy, but as their interest in English grew they were astounding. I didn't realize how easy it was to fall in love with a third grade class."

DACOWITS: Turning ideas into reality for female service members

LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — The Executive Committee of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services visited service members on Okinawa July 25 in the mist of their annual two-week tour to military installations outside the continental United States.

The visit gave the DACOWITS Executive Committee an opportunity to observe hundreds of service members and discuss issues about overseas quality of life, forces development and utilization, and equality management.

During the visit, DACOWITS focused on policies and issues relating to military personnel, especially to women in the military. To accomplish this goal, the 10-member committee divided service members into sections called focus groups.

The focus groups, which were separated by rank and sex, gave service members an individual opportunity to voice their concerns about what affects them personally and as a unit in the military.

"We want to give service members a chance to open up and let us know what they're really thinking and feeling on the inside," said Vickie McCall, executive committee chair, DACOWITS. "Our committee is dedicated to taking issues that affect women and finding solutions for them. That has been DACOWITS' goal throughout its existence."

Established in 1951, DACOWITS helped military women address issues such as healthcare, pay, and childcare facilities.

Over the years, the committee has used the personal tours as an opportunity to work firsthand with female and male service members. By working with both sexes, these tours help DACOWITS create a life that is worthwhile and important for women in the military.

"Women are an important part of the military, and we need the opportunity and experience that males receive," said Sgt. Renee G. Thompson, administration clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base. "We sacrifice our time and life just like male service members, so there's no reason we shouldn't receive the same treatment."

DACOWITS makes the focus groups important for service members by listening instead of leading the discussions. To accomplish this, DACOWITS uses the same process they have used for 50 years.

"How we administer the discussions is very simple," McCall said. "We ask service members two questions: What would you ask or discuss with the Secretary of Defense, if you had 10 minutes with him? The second question: How is life in Okinawa?"

By asking the focus groups two basic questions, service members receive the freedom to speak what they feel and why they feel the way they do. Service members also have the assurance of knowing that everything discussed in the focus group is entirely confidential.

"Getting the chance to speak about how I feel and what affects me personally is something we need more in the military," Thompson expressed.

"DACOWITS gives us such a great opportunity to make a difference in our lives. They deserve a lot of credit for traveling a long distance just to hear our opinions."

After the two-week tour, DACOWITS then reports directly to the Secretary of Defense with all the broad issues discussed about military life overseas.

This year, DACOWITS will go back to the States with a full agenda.

During the focus groups, many unknown issues were brought to the attention of the committee, according to McCall. It is now the committee's responsibility to represent the concerns of service members to the secretary of defense.

"I am very pleased with this year's results because I feel we're going back home with many new issues that have not been addressed in the past," McCall said. "I continue to be impressed with the integrity of our service members to explain how they feel."

To summarize this year's two-week tour, DACOWITS will visit 14 military bases in Alaska, Korea, Japan, Okinawa and Hawaii.

"The entire trip has been jam-packed with events for the committee," McCall concluded. "It's worth the time we spend here when we sit down with men and women in the focus groups and listen to them speak their true feelings."

McCall ended by stating DACOWITS plans to return to Okinawa in 2003 with perhaps a different executive committee, but with the same two questions.



PHOTOS BY CPL. MATTHEW E. HABIB

Marines from India battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment helped make the casualty drill realistic by playing roles as victims and by providing "buddy-aid," a system where Marines help each other when injured.

Medical drill tests 12th Marines corpsman during artillery shoot

CPL. MATTHEW E. HABIB
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

OJOJIHARA, Japan — Two five-ton trucks crashed and overturned on a base road July 3, which seriously injured two Marines; one with a closed head wound, and the other with a crushed pelvic injury.

Luckily, the Navy Corpsman and Marines on scene gave proper medical care, while an ambulance carrying an additional corpsman and physician rushed to the scene. The emergency crew arrived 14 minutes after the call went out, and the doctors quickly transported the two injured Marines to a Japanese airfield, where they were evacuated by helicopter to the nearest medical facility.

Before the chopper was able to take off, the two injured Marines jumped smiling out of their stretchers, as the Navy doctors shook hands with their Japanese counterparts and thanked them for making the day a success. After all, this was only a medical casualty drill.

This medical drill was made as realistic as possible in order to test the skills of the Navy doctors under the stressful and fast-paced conditions of a medical crisis. These drills are common during these types of exercises. But medical emergencies and training exercises are just two of many situations when corpsmen support the Marines.

From making sure field conditions are up to standards for the Marines to train in, to treating casualties in a wartime situation, the Navy corpsmen continue to strengthen bonds with their Marine counterparts. The Artillery Relocation Exercise here is another one of those opportunities, according to Lt. Cmdr. Pierre A. Pelletier, regimental surgeon, 12th Marine Regiment.

"During this exercise, we have conducted casualty drills, checked water supplies, made sure field-mess food is cooked properly and checked that field latrines are placed properly," Pelletier said. "During a wartime situations, we would set up a battalion aid station to treat casualties, as well as having corpsmen assigned within the [infantry] platoons, treating casualties during the battles."

"Casualty drills such as these are important, since they prepare us for the real situation," added Petty Officer 3rd Class Glenn Collera, corpsman, India Co., 3rd Bn., 11th Marine Regiment, who also had a large part in preparing the realistic exercise. "It's



Petty Officer 1st Class Ronald R. Roman, senior medical department representative, 3/12, puts one of the injured Marines into the medical helicopter with the help of JGSDF medics. Without the help of the JGSDF, the exercise would have never been as successful as it was, according to Roman.

just like the old Marine saying "Train the way you fight." I always try to make it as real as possible, so I know exactly the way I need to react in the real situation."

During a real life medical situation, it is important for everyone to keep a cool head, because the corpsmen are one of the first echelons in medical care, according to Pelletier.

If a Marine is injured, first self-aid is administered by the Marine himself. If he is unable to support himself, then his fellow Marines administer "buddy-aid" until the corpsman arrives on the scene.

Once there, the corpsman assess the situation, prioritizes victims by their injuries, and either treat them there or arrange for transportation to nearby medical facilities, which are usually a field hospital or hospital ship.

Communication with the host nation the Marines are training with is also important, according to Pelletier. "This casualty drill would not be a success without the help of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force support."

"When training in a foreign land, we have to make sure we can communicate well with our counterparts, and make sure our equipment is compatible with their equipment," Pelletier. "In this exercise, communication with the Japanese was extremely good and the exercise was a success because of constant planning and advance meetings. Since we had those meetings and were prepared for the drill, that means we are also prepared for the real thing."

Parents: GHB use, abuse on the rise

LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Over the years, the war on drugs has become a constant battle, not only for civilian society, but also for U. S. military service members and families around the world. This battle is well underway in Okinawa.

Recently, the use of Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, has risen among high school and college students on Okinawa, and military officials have gained an interest.

The drug, originally designed as a central nervous system depressant, produces a hallucinogenic or euphoric state, which causes a feeling of warmth, relaxation and tranquility. When abused, GHB can affect a person's physical or psychological state, sometimes resulting in dependence and withdrawal symptoms.

Side effects of the drug include confusion, drowsiness, unconsciousness, disorientation, dizziness and sometimes coma. Since GHB can cause unconsciousness, it is alleged that men use the drug for sexual assault against women.

"This particular drug, along with any illegal drug, is harmful and nothing to play around with," said Chris Cote, supervisory special agent, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Okinawa. "It's side effects are dangerous and not worth the risk of a few hours of feeling good."

GHB exists in odorless liquid, powder or capsule form and is administered orally, which is sometimes accompanied by alcohol to add to the effect. Effects of the drug can begin within 1 hour after ingestion and can last for up to 24 hours, depending on the amount of dosage.

The highest percentages of people who abuse the drugs include dance club attendees, who use it for its euphoric effect, and bodybuilders, since it aids as an anabolic muscle builder and fat reducer.

"Just like Ecstasy, we have seen a dramatic increase of GHB use due to the increasing popularity of raves and dance clubs," Cote said. "The drug is easily transported and can be attained with little or no trouble at all. Parents should be strongly warned."

Cote said the drug is labeled as a social drug because it is usually taken in a social environment, but that is not true. The so-called "Social Drugs," are as dangerous as any other illegal drug.

"When someone takes the responsibility to use or abuse drugs, they are hurting themselves and everyone around them," said Lance Cpl. Gerardo Padron, motor transportation operator, Marine Wing Support Squadron-172, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. "This behavior needs to stop before it's too late and we lose control of the younger community."

The drug carries several names such as Goop, Liquid Ecstasy, Georgia Home Boy, Grievous Bodily Harm and Fantasy.

The drug was at one time thought to be safe and sold at health food stores, but in 1990 the Food and Drug Administration exposed the dangers of the drug and declared it unsafe except under supervision of a physician. Ten years later, the FDA placed the drug on Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act, which is designed to fight against drugs and other harmful substances.

Cote feels the more education parents receive about illegal drugs, such as GHB, the better chance they have to control their children's involvement with illegal drug use. He said the main fact to remember is that even though we live in Okinawa, do not believe there is not a drug problem. Drugs are available here just like in the states.

"As parents and service members, we need education about the dangers of drug abuse, especially in the military," Cote concluded. "We represent a country who fights for freedom, and we can't afford for this type of behavior to continue."

For more information about GHB, or other illegal narcotics visit: www.usdoj.gov.



NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for July 22 - 28.

• Underage drinking

A private first class with Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

A private first class with Training Support Battalion, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$263 pay for one month and restriction/extra duties for 14 days.

A lance corporal with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 30 days.

• Drunk and disorderly and underage drinking

A lance corporal with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking and being drunk and disorderly. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 30 days.

• Driving under the influence

A corporal with Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of driving under the influence. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$653 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 30 days.

A lance corporal with 31st MEU, III MEF, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of driving under the influence. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 pay per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.



TMO TIPS

The following are tips from the Traffic Management Office.

For more information, contact the local Traffic Management Office or Gunnery Sgt. Quirindongo at 645-0966.

• Storage of personal property sent to Okinawa in connection with PCS orders is an entitlement that expires after 90 days. If you have arranged a shipment to Okinawa and have not contacted TMO to provide disposition instructions, please do so by calling 645-0413, 645-0418, 645-7813 or 645-9382.

• Usually a change in the pickup of personal property occurs due to a modification of orders or change in flight date. If this happens, bring a copy of the modification to the nearest TMO office and ask to submit a change slip. Failure to submit changes in a timely manner could affect your other entitlements.

• Occasionally during typhoon season, a typhoon prevents a scheduled pickup from being made. When typhoon conditions are lifted and shipment pickups can resume, those shipments already scheduled to be picked up will be made when the all clear occurs. Shipments missed will be picked up as they can be arranged into the current schedule.



PFC. MARK S. ALLEN

CFC contribution

International Service Agencies president Renee S. Acosta handed Brig. Gen. Timothy R. Larsen, Commanding General, Marine Corps Bases, a check for \$12,590.24 on behalf of the Combined Federal Campaign to Marine Corps Community Services July 25. CFC is a charity campaign sponsored by the Department of Defense, which collects donations from service members and gives the donations to the charity of the sponsor's choice.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMCRS seeks volunteers

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society on Okinawa is seeking volunteers for its offices at Camps Foster, Hansen and Kinser. Several positions are available, including receptionists and counselors who assist clients in need of financial aid.

Volunteers with NMCRS have the opportunity to develop communication skills, meet new people and enhance their resume through their work.

Free childcare and a mileage allowance to and from NMCRS is provided to volunteers.

For more information on volunteering at NMCRS, call 645-7808.

Marine Corps University classes

Marine Corps University is accepting enrollments for the 2001-2002 academic year which begins October 2001.

Amphibious Warfare School Phase I, AWS II and Command & Staff will be taught in seminar with adjunct faculty. The diploma is the same as the resident diploma and these courses are equivalent to the resident diploma for promotion and assignment. The Command & Staff College is a Joint Professional Military Education phase I accredited school.

Seminars meet once a week for two hours. Sign up now so materials will be received prior to the Oct. 1 start date.

For more information, contact Col. James P. Hopkins, USMC retired, or Betty Eisenmann at 645-2230/2500, e-mail hopkinsjp@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or got to the MCU website at <http://mcu.mcbbutler.usmc.mil>.

Soccer players needed

Soccer players assigned to Marine Corps Base

units and the U.S. Naval Hospital are needed to play in the Marine Corps Forces Pacific Regional Soccer Tournament that takes place Aug. 26-Sept. 2.

Tryouts for the team will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m. through Aug. 9 at the Camp Lester soccer field.

For more information, contact Carlos Fogarthy at 623-4337.

Blood drive

The Camp Kinser American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp Lester Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Building 107, Room 146 and Aug. 23 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kinser Chapel Social Hall.

Former MACVSOG members

The U.S. Army Special Operations committee will award the Presidential Unit Citation Award to former members of the Military Assistance Committee Vietnam Studies and Operations Group on Aug. 17.

Members of all four services were attached to the unit. Event organizers are looking for former service members or retirees who may not know about Congress recently granting the PUC.

The 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group is currently looking for retirees or family members in the Pacific to attend this event.

If you served with the MACVSOG or know someone who did, please contact Army Capt. Bob Ball at 644-4490 or Army Capt. Paul Mattson at 644-4123 for more details.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

How to prevent clashes of the titans



SGT. MAJ. STEPHEN H. MELLINGER
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC SERGEANT MAJOR

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Every now and then I hear of a power struggle between some sergeant major/first sergeant (9999 billet) and a master gunnery sergeant/master sergeant. These little rifts between the upper-enlisted probably have been going on from the day the Corps first split the two pay grades. One might say it's an identity crisis between these four ranks.

Quite honestly, I think we (9999 community) have more of an identity crisis in the matter than our counterparts. I've learned from personal experiences to view master gunnery sergeants/master sergeants as the Corps' "duty experts" technically, and 9999's more like "jacks of many Marine trades, but masters of none."

I will admit that as a young first sergeant I too was caught up in such discussions. To be honest, my prejudicial attitude began once I decided, as a gunny, to go the 9999 path, rather than remain in my MOS. I felt that sergeants major/first sergeants were more important to our beloved Corps as leaders.

The fact of the matter is both sides of our E-9/

E-8 ranks are equally vital to the success of any command. However, I again had to learn the hard way that one was not more important than the other.

As a just promoted first sergeant, I reported to my new command just full of myself, thinking about how I was now "The Man!" Checking in, I learned there were five master gunnies in our unit.

"No problem," I told myself. After all, my billet was "senior" to any master gunny billet so that made me boss hog! I held that thought until I had the pleasure of meeting Master Gunnery Sgt. Johnson.

My first SNCO PME, I started things off by announcing that I was the "new sheriff" in town, and that I was there to lay down the law on how things were going to be run from now on.

The next morning Master Gunnery Sgt. Johnson sent me a pleasant invitation to visit him. I made a point to drop by his office that afternoon.

In the first few minutes of my visit, I learned a lot about Master Gunnery Sgt. Johnson.

In a quiet, yet direct, tone of voice he informed me that he had fought in Korea during 1950 and 1951 (five years before I was born!).

Standing nose to nose, burning holes in my eyeballs with his, he subtly made me aware that he had more than 30 years active service and more time in grade than I had time-in-service.

I can tell you at this point, in this one-sided conversation, I knew that if I was the "sheriff," Master Gunnery Sgt. Johnson had to be the "mayor!" Before he dismissed me from his office, he left me with one great piece of advice.

His advice to me was not to forget this little visit with him. He told me that if I ever forgot my relationship to him (as a Marine), if I ever forgot any of this conversation, he would not hesitate introducing his boot to my backside (to put it mildly)!

After assisting me with an attitude adjustment, that crusty old Marine spent the next couple of years supporting me 100 percent and teaching me how to be an effective 9999. He showed me the importance of senior enlisted working as one unit in harmony, regardless of rank, title or billet.

Above all, he taught me that having a mutual respect for each other's billet and rank was paramount to accomplish any mission.

All of you younger Marines may be asking yourself, "What's this 'clash of the enlisted titans' have to do with me?"

The answer is that misperceptions and stereotypes concerning our four elite enlisted grades could make our Corps less effective as a team.

This type of stereotyping could mislead potential command leaders (each of you) from choosing a career as a 9999. And likewise, it could cause some needed technical Marines to leave their technical billet thinking that to be a "real" Marine leader you have to be a 9999.

Every Marine has strengths and weaknesses, regardless of their rank, title or billet. A true Marine leader is one that can make use of other's strengths, no matter if their position is junior, senior or equal. Semper Fi.

After assisting me with an attitude adjustment, that crusty old Marine ... showed me the importance of senior enlisted working as one unit in harmony, regardless of rank, title or billet.

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Standing up for what's right

You've been chosen to be an observer as your work section takes its Physical Fitness Test. After giving a period of instruction on the proper way to do a pull-up, your officer in charge gets up on the bar to do his pull-ups and begins to kip. You know your OIC has a bad temper and tends to hold a grudge. If you tell him the pull-ups don't count, you know you risk future repercussions.

What do you do: tell him the pull-ups don't count, or let him get by with what he is doing?

What the Marines said

Master sergeant with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing: Tell him they don't count and to do them correctly.

Gunnery sergeant with 1st MAW: Give him a warning on his first pull-up and then let him know from that point forward that his pull-ups aren't counting.

Gunnery sergeant with Marine Corps Base: Tell him his pull-ups don't count.

I can only count standard pull-ups. My integrity is much more important than my career.

Gunnery sergeant with MCB: Tell him the pull-ups he's doing are wrong and not by Marine Corps orders. We can't, as leaders, worry about fitness reports or repercussions because then we tend to compromise our position as leaders.

What the Chaplain said

Chaplain: Integrity is always an easy thing to have in hypothetical situations. The test of true integrity is what we do when we're forced to pay a price for our principles. We may be tempted to look the other way when we see a wrong being committed, we may try to convince ourselves that it doesn't matter or that it's not our job to say anything simply because we're unwilling to pay the price.

However, we pay a much bigger price by remaining silent. Your OIC could affect your career by giving you a bad evaluation or they could just make your life miserable for speaking up, but he can't change who you are or what you stand for. You alone make that decision and you alone must face yourself in the mirror.

It sounds like each of the Marines who gave their response to this situation understood the consequences of compromising their values. Each of them has had successful careers because they were willing to make the difficult call. That's what leadership is all about. To succeed at any cost is only an illusion and just not worth the price. Ask yourself if you would want to be a leader like the OIC in this scenario? Looking out for your self at the cost of doing what's right whether it's cheating on pull-ups or simply looking the other way is no different. You decide.

-Navy Lt. Mike Reckling, Chaplain, Medical Battalion, 3rd FSSG



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III MEF changes h



CPL. SCOTT CARLSON



STAFF SGT. JOHN A. GILES

Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston passes the III MEF Colors to Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson symbolizing the change in command Tuesday.



mands



CPL. SCOTT CARLSON
Cindy Gregson watches as her son, Nicholas, and Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston pin on her husband's third star Tuesday in the III MEF headquarters building on Camp Courtney.



STAFF SGT. JASON M. WEBB
Formations of Marines stand at attention after the command was given to 'march on the colors' during the III MEF change of command.

Lt. Gen. Hailston moves up and on to MarForPac

SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY – For one Marine on Okinawa, leaving this small Pacific island to assume a higher command comes with the sacrifice of leaving before he is ready.

"I truly love Okinawa. To stay here for another year or two would make me as happy as any man on the face of the earth," said Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston, Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "I also understand the honor the Commandant bestowed upon me when he nominated me for Marine Forces Pacific. And so while I'm sad to leave here, I'm proud to go to MarForPac."

Hailston quickly followed by adding what it was that helped him get where he is today.

"I know it's not because of Earl Hailston that I'm nominated to go to PAC, it's because of the performance of the 24,000 Marines that are in III MEF and the 17,000 in particular that are here on Okinawa, they are the ones that got me the job," he said proudly. "I don't look good. They made me look good. And I appreciate that greatly."

Hailston, who was also the Commander, Marine Corps Bases Japan, turned over command to Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, the former Commanding General for 3rd Marine Division, in an evening change of command ceremony July 31. After the Senate confirms Hailston's nomination to be Commander, Marine Forces Pacific, he will move to Hawaii and assume his new billet.

The long Marine Corps career that Hailston has enjoyed started out like most Marines in Okinawa, at Parris Island. His first assignment was with 2nd Marine Division as an infantry rifleman before receiving his commission through the Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1968.

He served with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam and Headquarters Marine Corps where he served as Assistant Secretary to the General Staff. He also had a tour in Korea as the Combined Forces Command/U.S. Eighth Army Operations Plans Officer and also served as Commanding General 3rd Force Service Support Group. The one thing that stayed constant in his career was his service in the Pacific with III MEF.

"I've served in III MEF at every single pay grade except major and major general," Hailston said.

"Somehow or another I'd like to turn the clock back to do that all over again. It's been an absolutely fantastic part of my life."

As another big part of his life, Hailston couldn't think of a better place to be a Marine than here.

"Since I came in, Marines have done nothing but keep getting better," he said. "These are the best Marines that I've seen. It's just wonderful to be a Marine and I can't think of a better place to be one than here in Okinawa."

His respect and love for Okinawa stems from the people that are here. He said our hosts here are the best people on earth and that it's tough to find anyone who is more kind, more giving and friendlier than the Okinawan people.

"I am going to yearn openly for my Okinawan friends," he said. "These people are family to me. Our Okinawan friends have had the task of hosting us for 56 years and they are still loving, devoted, wonderful friends and these people need and deserve our best behavior."

He advises all visiting the island to knock down barriers between the people that make this home. The Marines need to open up, talk freely back and forth and we need to act as guests here.

As Hailston reflected on his life as a Marine, he felt the best thing for him was to enjoy every day he has with his Marines.

"I've been a Marine all my life," he said. "I don't know anything else than being a Marine. The older you get the more fun it is. It's scary because I know there are more years behind me than a head of me. And I have to make the most of them. I have to make the most of every single day."

He was thankful for every moment he had in Okinawa and Hailston has nothing but pride about who he is – a Marine.

"It's been a real pleasure and honor to be here," he said. "I think the neatest part of the whole deal is I am able to say I'm a U.S. Marine, which makes me more proud than anything in the world."

As a Marine, Hailston felt he has come a long way from Parris Island and the Officer Candidate School to his nomination to be commander of MarForPac.

"I've grown; from truly a grown boy to an old man and the one solid thing through out it all has been the Marines that have surrounded me," he concluded. "It wouldn't bother me one minute to have to repeat everyday of it all over again."

Marines tackle HRST course

Story and Photos by Cpl. Scott Carlson

Camp Hansen — Rappelling is training all recruits go through before claiming the title U.S. Marine. But, as recruits leaned over the edge of rappelling walls during basic training, how many looked back into that drill instructor's eyes and wondered, "Does this guy know what he's doing?"

Where do Marines and Sailors learn the craft of taking the lives of the men and women in their units into their own hands with a bunch of rope and a few small clamps? The Helicopter Rope Suspension Training course.

The course is offered here by the III Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group to noncommissioned officers and above, with at least one year remaining on their current contract.

The HRST course is not limited to Marines. Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen are able to enroll in the course. However, seat priority goes to service members with combat-arms military occupational specialties.

"The HRST course gives the MEU commander or unit commander the ability to insert and extract their units where a helicopter cannot land," said Staff Sgt. Martin L. Looney, senior instructor, SOTG.

The two week course covers everything from basic wall rappelling to more difficult variations of rappelling.

Wall rappelling is simply backing down a wall in a slow, controlled manner. Skid rappelling is leaping from a mock helicopter skid. The student leaps from the thick metal bar for a two to three second count before braking the fall, by placing the rope brake in the small of the back. The hellhole is an open hatch in the floor of the platform. It's a slow descent, simulating a rappel through the deck of a helicopter, explained Gunnery Sgt. Chris W. Burnett, chief instructor, SOTG.

Although, the course has 20 available class seats, not all 20 will graduate, Looney said. The current HRST course started with 20 Marines, but after the first week of training, only 11 remained.

"Some of them didn't want to be here, some were scared of heights," Looney elaborated.

Not all students who are afraid of heights fall by the wayside, he added.

"Some of them actually overcome their fear," Looney said. "It's a stepping stone training approach. If they're scared, we'll put them off the easiest point and we'll try and talk them through it."

Even though a fear of heights may seem like the biggest hurdle to overcome, the intensity of the course is the

reason most service members fail to complete the training, according to Looney.

"It's an intense course," he said. "Not only do you have written exams, there's a lot of practical application exams, and like any other Marine Corps course, some people don't grasp it as quickly as others."

Cpl. Christopher D. Washington, squad leader, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion 5th Marine Regiment, agreed with Looney.

"The hardest part of the course has been studying the books," the Kilgore, Texas, native said. "Mentally, it's tough because there's a lot you have to remember; a lot of small details."

According to Looney, students must maintain at least an 80 percent average to remain in the course.

So far, I've learned how to rig up a static tower and how to master ropers off safely," Washington said.

According to Washington, safety at the rappel tower is paramount and in the forefront of every Marine's mind.

"If I don't catch a certain knot and it ends up slipping out, that Marine could be hurt critically," Washington said.

For practical application procedures, the HRST masters asked Camp Hansen Marines and Sailors to contribute their time at the rappel tower. This enabled the students to get practice sending ropers down the wall, while under the meticulous eye of the HRST masters, Looney said.

Volunteers spent several hours slowly climbing the stairs of the tower and making their way down the rappel wall very quickly.

"You all are ... crazy," screamed a Navy corpsman from 3rd Medical Bn., as they leaped from the mock helicopter skid on top of the tower. "Get me off this ... thing!"

The skid is the hardest part for the volunteers, Washington said.

"You take a leap of faith," he said. "You fall five to 10 feet and that's hard for some people to do."

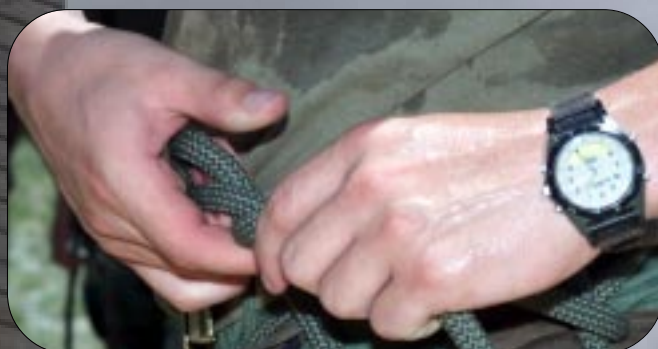
Upon graduation, the students will become HRST masters, Looney said. This certifies them to instruct their Marines and Sailors at the rappel tower until their certification expires, 18 months later.

Washington said he thinks all Marines should look into taking the HRST course, not only for the training, but also for the confidence the course instills in its students.

"Putting a Marine off a tower takes a lot of confidence," he said. "It also builds a lot of confidence in the unit."



Cpl. Jeremiah Williams, HRST Master Course student, practices his skills by teaching a Marine how to tie a military rappel seat prior to sending him down the tower.



An instructor shows students how to tie a tight military rappel seat. A properly tied seat is vital to safely descending from the tower.



A HRST Master Course student completes a night jump which is a requirement to qualify as an instructor.

Regulators mount up

Story and Photos by Sgt. Nathaniel T. Garcia



Lance Cpl. Francisco Valerio, driver, CAAT Platoon, is the quiet one of the group.



Sgt. Brenden "Chip" Sheppard, platoon sergeant, CAAT Plt., goes over a map with the team during a reconnaissance mission at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.



Petty Officer 3rd Class John "Doc" Faulkner, corpsman, CAAT Plt., takes care of the team's medical needs while in the field.



Lance Cpl. David "Buddha" Oliver, gunner, CAAT Plt., takes a swing at a tent post to shake it loose.



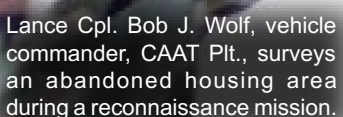
Lance Cpl. Andrew "Mad Dawg" Madsen, gunner, CAAT Plt., is one of the elite members of the platoon.



Lance Cpl. Ryan "Fin" McFarland, driver, CAAT Plt., takes shelter from the hot sun in a humvee. Fin is known in the team as the funny one.



Lance Cpl. Jeff T. Fowler, assistant gunner, CAAT Plt., carries a load of tent posts as the Marines prepare to leave Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.



Lance Cpl. Bob J. Wolf, vehicle commander, CAAT Plt., surveys an abandoned housing area during a reconnaissance mission.

CAMP SCHWAB — In the movies, Hollywood casts superstars like Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks and Robert Dinero to play the unsung heroes of our military, fighting against major antagonists and overcoming insurmountable odds.

Although most service members never become household names or draw a crowd of cheering fans every time they visit the local store, unsung heroes do exist. Maybe they are like the Marines of Weapons Company's Combined Anti-Armor Team Platoon.

The CAAT platoon is a self-proclaimed elite group of seven Marines and one Sailor currently deployed to Okinawa with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division from Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The CAAT platoon is a small group of machine gunners, Tube-launched Optical sites Wire-guided system gunners and a corpsman. Their mission in the battalion is to act as forward observers, locating potential threats the battalion might encounter.

This band of brothers consists of Sgt. Brenden "Chip" Sheppard, platoon sergeant; Lance Cpl. Bob J. Wolf, vehicle commander; Lance Cpl. Francisco Valerio, driver; Petty Officer Third Class John "Doc" Faulkner, corpsman; Lance Cpl. Ryan "Fin" McFarland, driver; Lance Cpl. David "Buddha" Oliver, gunner; Lance Cpl. Jeff T. Fowler, assistant gunner; and Lance Cpl. Andrew "Mad Dawg" Madsen, gunner. The team is young enough to become the world's newest boy band with one exception, Doc, who is 32. Most of their ages ranging from 19 to 22. However, they would more likely compare themselves to the "Old" Metallica.

"We're more like a heavy metal band because we are grungy and rough," Wolf said.

The team, named the 2000-2001 Crew Served Division Champions for 1st MarDiv, worked together for nearly two years and, like most other young bands, had trouble adjusting as a group in the beginning.

"It's like starting in kindergarten and working your way up," Sheppard said. "I get new Marines straight out of the School of Infantry and they don't know anything about CAAT tactics. At first, it's hard, but once they start working together and learning how to move together everything becomes a lot easier."

As the team learned together and participated in numerous exercises, they started to think of each other as a family. They rely on each other to give them a family away from home.

"We like to think of our platoon as a family and we're all brothers," said Wolf, a native of Bolivar, Mo. "(Sgt. Sheppard) is the big brother and we are the little runts right now. He has the knowledge and experience to pass down to us. He does what he can to help us out. He's there for us."

Though the time may be long be-

tween visits home, they have the support of their CAAT platoon family and each one has their own personality, Sheppard explains.

According to Sheppard, he is like the big brother, Doc is the girly-man of the group, Fin is the joker, and Valerio is the quiet one. They rely on each other to get the job done and to pass the time when they are away from home.

Unlike most families, however, each person in this group of Marines comes from a different background and adds something different to the team.

"Everyone brings something different to the table," said Sheppard, a native of Shawnee, Okla. "It makes you work better as a team because you know more about each other."

Confident in their abilities, CAAT platoon proclaims that they are the best at what they do and are comfortable with the name they gave themselves — Regulators.

A former staff sergeant would always tell the group to mount up like in the movie "Young Guns." As they told the story, they started to recite lines from the movie.

"We regulate any fool on this property and we're damn good at it too," Wolf said.

"Gotta be handy with the steal if you know what I mean," Fowler said.

"Gotta earn yer keep," said Mad Dawg, a native of Albuquerque, N.M.

Earning their keep is something they have learned from joining the Marine Corps.

"It has made me grow up more as a person," said Sheppard, who has a wife and two children he hasn't seen since February. "You learn to make sacrifices to support your family. Life is different when you are providing for yourself instead of depending on your mom and dad."

The team was away from family and friends for almost six months and anticipates their return home.

"Don't take for granted being at home and living in the states," advised Mad Dawg. "I see how different people live and I would hate it."

Even though most of them miss their families and friends, they wouldn't trade their experiences in the Marine Corps for anything, according to Fowler. When he goes home on leave, he sees the people he grew up with still doing the same thing. In the Marine Corps, he has traveled to many different places like Guam, Okinawa, Tinian and Peleliu; and experienced many different cultures.

As a goal, they try to learn as much as they can so that one-day they can take the role of big brother and teach the new members of CAAT platoon. The group will never break up agreed all members. So there will always be CAAT platoon and there will always be the Regulators. Maybe one day famous actors from the silver screen will portray these unsung heroes, making CAAT platoon a household name.



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

Sara Pugruw, 80, of Yap, has her eyes measured on a machine called an auto refractor July 21 at Yap hospital. Pugruw was among 20 Yapese who received eye exams courtesy of U.S. Sailors providing medical aid and assistance while training in field medicine in Yap.

Okinawa sailors reach out to Yap citizens

GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia – Under a shaded outdoor patio area at the state hospital, Clement Mulalap is stretched out on a cement bench chatting with a few people who are waiting with him.

Conversation pauses every so often for someone to spit into a small plastic trashcan beside them. Their saliva is colored deep red from chewing beetle nut, a small almond-sized seed which grown locally and used by nearly everyone in Yap.

The group has been waiting for more than an hour, but nobody appears too concerned about the time.

Inside, Navy Lt. Diego Vega, Chief Petty Officer Ernest Martinez and Seaman Michael E. Jones, are busy preparing an examination room, unpacking and plugging in the equipment they brought with them from Okinawa, Japan. They are among 40 Marines and Sailors who came to Yap on a two-week training mission to provide medical assistance.

Mulalap and the others came to see the Americans because it is one of the rare opportunities they have for eye care in Yap. Although the hospital in Yap has some basic eye examination equipment, none of its 11 doctors are formally trained to perform eye exams and issue prescriptions.

But Vega, an optometrist assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa, is qualified to provide the eye examinations and prescriptions.

"I'm asking people's chief complaint," Vega said, after examining and explaining to an elderly man that his poor vision was likely due to cataracts and not a condition correctable with glasses. "The main thing we're doing is checking refraction, or how to correct their blurry vision."

After each examination, Vega explained his findings. Some elderly patients, who did not speak English, required a translator. Most young people in Yap speak fluent English which is the second language after Yapese.

Visits by optometrists are a big deal here because they only happen two or three times each year, said Yap's Health Services director, Victor Ngaden, who was appointed to his position three years ago by Yap Governor Vincent Figir.

Although the visiting optometrists are volunteers, Yap and the other three states of the FSM — Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei — must pay for airfare, lodging and small service fee, Ngaden said.

But the visit by the military team costs Yap nothing. For the Sailors, they benefit by gaining deployment experience and providing eye care without typical support of a military installation, according to Vega.

"We got a call from Okinawa and we were told the military could come with an optometrist," Ngaden said.

"There are many people here who need eye exams. We have many people who have glasses that are not strong enough."

Between optometrist visits, patients who come to the hospital with vision problems are sent to Dr. Robert Paul. He works at the hospital and serves as a temporary eye doctor, but has no formal training in optometry.

"We have some glasses in the stores and he will find a pair that is the closest fit until they can get an examination by an optometrist," Ngaden said.

Hiring an optometrist is not an option for the Yap hospital.

"It is expensive for us to bring someone over to work for us," Ngaden said. "For us to hire an optometrist from the U.S., it would cost around \$90,000. That would cover the salary of 60 local doctors."

With more than 10,000 people living on Yap and its surrounding 17 small outer islands, transportation and communication can be challenging. Ngaden said it does little good to have optometrists visit Yap unless he knows about it ahead of time and has time to announce the visit throughout the outer islands.

"Many times a visiting doctor will walk into the hospital, introduce themselves and ask, 'what can I do to help?'" Ngaden said.

Many Yapese who could benefit from eye care need time to get to the main island. The most distant of Yap's inhabited outer islands is Satawal, 500 miles away. The only transportation mode available is by a government run ship service and, according to Ngaden, the trip takes one week each way. Forty percent of Yapese live on the outer islands.

The only other option for eye care is in Guam. According to Mulalap, a trip to Guam for such basic eye care would cost him nearly \$1,000 after tabulating costs for airfare, lodging, an exam and the glasses.

"I was going to have to go to Guam to get my glasses," said Mulalap, whose prescription was outdated and his frames held together with tape. "This will save me a lot of money."

"I'm going to fax my prescription tonight."

Ten patients were evaluated on the first day of eye care provided by Vega and his assistants.

In addition to providing eye exams, the service members will practice their field medical skills while supporting the Federated States of Micronesia Games July 22-31. The FSM Games are Micronesia's version of the Olympics.

Nineteen Marines and 21 sailors are participating in the exercise, which provides the Okinawa-based troops an opportunity to gain deployment experience, train in new areas throughout the Pacific and spread good will through their assistance in Yap.

The sailors and Marines are from III Marine Expeditionary Force units and arrived in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, July 17.

Seaman Michael E. Jones, a corpsman assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa, carefully works the controls of a auto refractor inside the state hospital at Yap, Micronesia, to measure a patient's eyes.



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

Deployment provides Sailor experience

GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia – He can usually be found running around the Labor and Delivery Department where he works at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Okinawa. But when Seaman Michael E. Jones, was called at the last minute to pack up and fly to Yap with a team of Marines and Sailors, the 26-year-old corpsman jumped at the chance.

"I was a last minute add on," said Jones, who spent a day at Yap's hospital assisting Navy Lt. Diego Vega, an optometrist from USNH, with preparing Yapese patients for eye exams.

Jones' duties included measuring patients eyes on a machine called an auto refractor and getting

a reading on the strength of prescription lenses on a piece of equipment called a Lensometer.

"I've never dealt with eyes before," said Jones, who is on his first deployment and learned how to operate the optometry equipment in just a few minutes. "It's interesting. I don't know a whole lot about optometry."

"I've never worked in FMSS (field medical service support) or with the Marines before. So I'm learning two new things which is pretty cool."

Deploying to Yap has motivated Jones, who said he's now considering asking to transfer into a unit which will allow him to deploy with the Marines more often.

"It's more of a challenge. And that's what I like."

Stunnas take tournament

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Nathan L. Hanks, Jr.



Brandon Embry, quarterback for KFF Tigers scrambles from Tony Rhoner a Navy team defensive end.



Ryan West, Dragons quarterback, throws a pass to Nick Wehner while being pressured by Stunnas players William Brown and Rich Walter.



Brandon Embry, quarterback for KFF Tigers, falls back to make a pass during the two-day flag football tournament July 14-15.

CAMP KINSER – The Stunnas won their championship game after taking the top seed in a two-day double elimination, flag football tournament held July 14 and 15.

The undefeated Stunnas trailed 13-0 in the first half but fought back to win the championship game with 14 unanswered points in Camp Kinser's Open Flag Football Tournament.

Nine teams from various units islandwide competed in the tournament.

"This is one of the best tournaments that I have played here on Okinawa," said Dragon's lineman Brandon Tutt. "The competition was tough."

The Stunnas, a team made up entirely of Marines, was the home team and favored to win by a majority of the local crowd.

"Stunnas have the most consistency," said spectator John Glaister. "They work well together."

After a full day of competition July 14, the Dragons, a team of Marines from Camp Hansen went head to head with the all Marine Courtney Ball Club.

"We only practiced a week," said Dragon's head coach Chico Mitchell. "We have a brand new team and a young quarterback. They played hard and I'm really proud of my team," Mitchell said.

With only one loss to the Dragons, CBC worked their way into a final championship match with the Stunnas.

It was early in the first half when CBC center Kenneth Shoemate caught a 5-yard pass for a touchdown. Tight end Joe Randall made the extra point giving CBC the lead 7-0.

After the kick off, the Stunnas attempted to throw for a touchdown but CBC safety Joseph Mooring picked off the pass in the end zone, and ran it back to the 40-yard line.

CBC pushed their way down to the 15-yard line to gain another first down, but at the 15-yard line they began to stall.

CBC's first and second attempts for first down were thwarted because of personal fouls, but on the third attempt quarterback Curtis Sampson threw to wide receiver Anthony Quinn for a touchdown. An attempt for the extra point was made, but to no avail. CBC led 13-0 for the rest of the first half.

The second half was make it or break it time for the Stunnas, but a comeback would not come without a fight from CBC.

After two failed attempts to score the Stunnas quarterback threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Marquis Jackson. Wilson forced the extra point by bulldozing his way across the goal line, which gave the Stunnas their first score cutting it to 7-13.

With both teams committing personal fouls on the first kickoff, the Stunnas re-kicked the ball and CBC dropped it at the 20-yard line. Because of flag football rules the ball was then turned over to the Stunnas at the 40-yard line.

After a quarterback sack, two batted down throws under double coverage and few yards gained, the Stunnas came up empty and were forced to punt.

The Stunnas punted the ball to the CBC 25-yard line before going out of bounds. After a quarterback sack and few yards gained, CBC eventually found themselves punting also.

The back and forth punting was finally broken when Stunnas special team player Edward Kennell used the CBC punt for an impressive run to the 30-yard line. On the Stunnas first down the ball advanced to the CBC 10-yard with a dashing run.

With 10-yards to go, the ball was thrown and intercepted by Mooring who took it in for a touchdown. However, the touchdown was called back to the 20-yard line because of a personal foul.

After several tries, CBC declared to punt. The ball was kicked to Kennell who dropped the ball at their 24-yard line. The next play, the ball was thrown and intercepted by CBC tailback Anthony Quinn.

With less than 5 minutes left in the game, CBC threw the football but was intercepted by Stunnas middle linebacker William Brown. The extra point was good putting the Stunnas ahead for the first time at 14-13.

The game would end with the Stunnas taking the championship and kept the trophy from leaving their home base.

"The ball game could have gone either way," said Rich Walter, Head Coach, Stunnas. "It was stiffest and the hottest competition that I have played in."

Painting the human canvas



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON

Senior Airman Robert Heis, mechanic, 18th Maintenance Squadron, Kadena Air Base, waits patiently as Jahrahi Michi, tattoo artist, finishes designing a tattoo at the second annual free tattoo event held at Gourmet Town Tattoo Shop July 29.

Service members drawn to free tattoos

LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CHATAN — The Gourmet Town Tattoo Shop turned into a modern art gallery July 29 when more than 300 service members and civilians lined up for a chance to get tattooed for free.

The second annual event, which is the largest free tattoo event in Okinawa, featured 13 of the top professional tattoo artists from Okinawa and mainland Japan.

The owner of Gourmet Town Rikki Mapsuyama expressed his purpose for hosting the islandwide event, by giving everyone a chance to experience the art of tattooing.

"By having all these tattoo artists and fans under one roof, it gives everyone the opportunity to experience what tattooing is all about," Mapsuyama said. "Too many people have the wrong idea about tattooing. They don't understand that having a tattoo is like being in a family because you're one of a million people with tattoos."

The event was open to service members and civilians islandwide. People who paid the admission fee enjoyed an all you can eat and drink buffet along with a raffle ticket for a free tattoo. With more than 500 tattoo designs to choose from, a lucky winner was revealed every

fifteen minutes.

"Attendees just have to cross their fingers and hope their number will be called next," Mapsuyama said. "We don't have the time to tattoo everyone, so the fun of having a raffle makes up for it."

Service member uniform regulations prohibit tattoos that bring discredit upon the military. To adhere to regulations, Gourmet Town only offered tattoos that were modest and moral in appearance.

"I understand the military has rules and regulations to follow about tattoos and body piercing," Mapsuyama said. "We have lots of tattoos to offer service members that will keep them out of trouble."

The event also increased relations between service members and the Okinawan community by bringing them both together for the same purpose.

"I think it's great that we can come and associate ourselves with the Okinawans," said Lance Cpl. Aaron Smith, machinist, General Support Maintenance Company, 3rd Force Service Support Group. "It's a culture exchange for service members, and the chance for a free tattoo is hard to turn down also."

Mapsuyama ended by stating this year's event was a huge success, and he looks forward to next year.



A tattoo artist uses patience to keep the needle steady while designing a tattoo.



Sgt. Webster Brandis, motor transportation operator, H&S BN, MCB, looks at a tattoo catalog.



Lance Cpl. Aaron Smith, machinist, GSM Co., 3rd FSSG, watches as Yatcha Nigara, tattoo artist, designs a tattoo on his stomach.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

1990 Nissan Prairie — JCI May 03, \$2,200 OBO. 646-2503.
1992 Nissan Bluebird — JCI July 02, \$2,000. 645-3602.
1992 Mitsubishi Minica — JCI June 03, \$1,900 OBO. 090-7445-3879.
1989 Honda Integra — JCI March 02, \$1,000 OBO. 646-8558.
1988 Nissan Cefiro — JCI Dec. 01, \$1,200 OBO. **1990 Royal Lounge Town Ace** — JCI July 03, \$3,500 OBO. **1989 Nissan Pulsar** — JCI Dec. 02, \$1,500 OBO. 646-5545.
1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI March 03, \$2,000 OBO. 646-5789.
1989 Toyota Soarer GT — JCI July 03, \$2,800 firm. 646-3286.
1996 Honda CR200R — \$1,000 OBO. 090-9789-8131.
1991 Honda City — JCI July 03, \$1,900. 637-3512.
1986 Toyota Town Ace — JCI April 03, \$1,200 OBO. 636-4546.
1987 Mitsubishi Charlot — JCI Nov. 01, \$550 OBO. 645-9411.
1990 Toyota Carina ED — JCI March 02, \$1,100 OBO. 622-5364.
1992 Honda Civic — JCI Feb. 02, \$1,400 OBO. 622-6666/7320.
1991 Mazda Miata — JCI Feb. 03, \$3,900. 623-7616.
1991 Suzuki Escudo — JCI April 02, \$1,200 OBO. 637-5131.
1991 Nissan Prairie — JCI Oct. 02, \$2,000 OBO. 934-3534.
1989 Toyota Light Ace — JCI Jan. 02, \$600 OBO. 637-3836.
1990 Mitsubishi Galant — JCI July 03, \$2,500 OBO. **1988 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI Oct. 01, \$1,000 OBO. 633-5789.
1990 Nissan Largo — JCI Oct. 02, \$1,500 OBO. 623-7312.
1992 Toyota Mark II — JCI May 03, \$2,800. 646-4894.
1990 Nissan Sylvia — JCI July 03, \$2,000. 646-3548.
1987 Toyota Master Surf — JCI Jan. 02, \$1,000 OBO. 622-8450/623-4728.

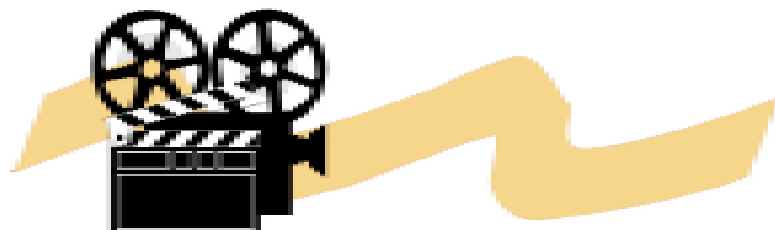


MISCELLANEOUS

Free Okinawan Dog — 1-year-old, weighs 13 pounds, all white except one ear is brown, neutered, microchipped, all shots are current, terrific and playful with everyone, including children, go to smith1@kda.attmil.ne.jp to see picture. 632-3518.
Misc. — New RS-R headers for EF-7 Honda, \$500 OBO. 637-3985.
Platinum engagement ring set — 3/4-carat engagement ring and wedding band with seven marquis diamonds set in band, never been worn, \$2,000 OBO. 623-4940 or 623-4874.
Misc. — KDS 15-inch computer monitor, liquid crystal, flat screen display, built-in speakers, 3-year warranty, \$600; scuba gear, med rig 2 BCD, Vapor Tech Reg., Med Body Glove wetsuit, size 10 booties, mask, snorkle and fins, \$700 OBO. 090-1948-8955 or e-mail usmc_irvin@hotmail.com.
Misc. — Couch, blue basset, 3 years old, \$500; couch, multicolored, sectional with sleeper sofa, 2 recliners and massager, 6 months old, \$1,200. 646-5789.
Found — Ring outside Camp Foster education building/Commissary parking lot. Must be able to describe features. 646-5881.
Computer — Dell Pentium III, 667 Mhz CPU, 128 MB RAM, 56K modem, DVD, 17-inch monitor and subwoofer, \$1,099. 646-8974.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Schwab (625-2333)
Fri Blow (R); 7:00
Sat Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 6:00
Sat A Knight's Tale (PG13); 9:00
Sat Tomb Raider (PG13); 12:00
Sun Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 3:00
Sun A Knight's Tale (PG13); 6:00
Mon Jurassic Park III (PG13); 7:00
Tue Jurassic Park III (PG13); 7:00
Wed Closed
Thu Freddy Got Fingered (R); 7:00
Hansen (623-4564)
Fri Cats & Dogs (PG); 6:00, 9:00
Sat Cats & Dogs (PG); 6:00, 9:00
Sat The Fast and the Furious (PG13); 11:00
Sun Angel Eyes (R); 2:00, 5:30
Mon Freddy Got Fingered (R); 7:00
Tue One Night at McCool's (R); 7:00
Wed Kingdom Come (PG); 7:00
Thu Kingdom Come (PG); 7:00
Courtney (622-9616)
Fri Jurassic Park III (PG13); 7:00
Sat Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 7:00

Sun Blow (R); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Closed
Wed Dinosaur (PG); 1:00
Wed A Knight's Tale (PG13); 7:00
Thu Closed
Keystone (634-1869)
Fri A Knight's Tale (PG13); 6:30
Fri A.I.: Artificial Intelligence (PG13); 8:30
Sat Jurassic Park III (PG13); 1:00
Sat A.I.: Artificial Intelligence (PG13); 5:30
Sat Angel Eyes (R); 8:30
Sun Jurassic Park III (PG13); 2:00
Sun Kingdom Come (PG); 5:30
Sun Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG); 8:30
Mon Angel Eyes (R); 7:00
Tue Kingdom Come (PG); 7:00
Wed Kingdom Come (PG); 7:00
Thu Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG); 7:00
Butler (645-3465)
Fri The Score (R); 7:00, 10:00
Sat Kingdom Come (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sat The Score (R); 7:00, 10:00

Sun Kingdom Come (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sun Angel Eyes (R); 7:00
Mon Kingdom Come (PG); 7:00
Tue Angel Eyes (R); 7:00
Wed Angel Eyes (R); 7:00
Thu Jurassic Park III (PG13); 7:00
Futenma (636-3890)
Fri The Mummy Returns (PG13); 7:30
Sat Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 6:00
Sat Swordfish (R); 11:00
Sun Blow (R); 6:00
Mon Cats & Dogs (PG13); 7:30
Tue Closed
Wed Rush Hour 2 (PG); 7:30
Thu Closed
Kinser (637-2177)
Fri A Knight's Tale (PG13); 7:00
Sat Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG); 3:00
Sat Angel Eyes (R); 7:00, 11:30
Sun Kingdom Come (PG); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG); 7:00
Wed Jurassic Park III (PG13); 7:00
Thu Kingdom Come (PG); 7:00



Check Schwab, Courtney, Keystone, Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.



Check Keystone, Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.



Check Hansen, Keystone, Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.